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Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 5

September - October 1999

Mann Gulch

by Maggie Pittman, public affairs officer
Helena National Forest

"As we move into the next millennium, it's time to rededicate ourselves to the memory of these fine young men and the lesson their deaths taught us: that wildfires are and always will be dangerous and that we must respect fire's potential to put firefighters in harm's way. And, above all, that life is precious and for some, very short."

With these words Robert Sallee, the lone living survivor of the parachute jump into the Mann Gulch Fire in August 1949, concluded his remarks as the keynote speaker at recent ceremonies marking the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the disastrous fire on the Helena National Forest.

Sallee joined Chief Mike Dombeck, Regional Forester Dale Bosworth, Montana Governor Marc Racicot and other dignitaries on the west lawn of the Montana State Capitol in Helena on August 5 to remember and pay tribute to the 13 smokejumpers lost in the fire, to recognize others who helped with the Mann



Bob Sallee, lone living survivor of the Mann Gulch fire, was the keynote speaker at the commemoration ceremony.

Gulch blaze, and to honor the contributions of smokejumpers and firefighters everywhere.

A crowd of about 600 people attended the ceremony, listened to the speakers and watched as Bob Sallee unveiled a new bronze of a life-sized smokejumper jacket and helmet commissioned to commemorate the anniversary. It was part of a two-day event sponsored by the Forest Service designed to draw national, regional and local attention to the 50th anniversary of the fire.

On the morning of August 4, a wreath-laying ceremony was held, including representatives of Montana's wildland firefighting agencies and smokejumpers, or former smokejumpers, carrying evergreen wreaths into Mann Gulch. There they placed the wreaths at the 13 monuments which mark the spot where the bodies of the men killed in the fire were recovered. As part of the event,

smokejumper Wayne Williams from the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot made a ceremonial parachute drop into the Gulch.

On the evening of August 4, the Forest Service and the Missoula Smokejumpers Welfare Association hosted a social for the families of the 13 men killed in the fire and for VIPs invited to the commemoration. Although it rained almost all evening, invited guests were treated to a tour boat ride down the Missouri, live music by the Wilbur Rehman Jazz Quartet, and a light meal. Approximately 165 family members, guests, VIPs and Helena Forest personnel attended the social.

On August 5, at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena, the Helena Artists Group performed a song and dance tribute, *Out of the Ashes*. The Learning Channel also premiered the documentary *Firefight: Stories from the Frontlines*. Later that evening the National Smokejumpers Association sponsored a public dinner complete with live music at the historic Kleffner Ranch near East Helena.

At the conclusion of all the activities, events coordinator Dave Turner, Helena Ranger District, observed that through a group effort a very good thing had been accomplished. "I think people who attended the commemorative ceremonies and those who participated in the commemoration went away feeling very confident that the memory of these men and the sacrifice they made will not soon be forgotten. And that was one of our key objectives."

See related story
"The Wreaths" on page 2.

40th Anniversary Hebgen Lake Earthquake 1959 - 1999

by Joanne Girvin, supervisory guide
Earthquake Lake Visitor Center,
Gallatin National Forest.

The devastating earthquake that occurred on August 17, 1959, in the Madison River Canyon changed the landscape as well as the lives of anyone near the area that fateful night. Lives were lost and families were broken forever. Many of the survivors could not face returning for years.

Irene Bennet, who lost her husband and three children during the earthquake, did not return for over 35 years. The recent 40th anniversary of the earthquake was an opportunity to revisit that time and that place, to recall those who died in the earthquake, and to rededicate the visitor center to their memory.

Headed by supervisory guide Joanne Girvin, staff of the Earthquake Lake Visitor Center hosted a variety of events on August 17, 1999. Present were several survivors of the earthquake. A service was held at the Memorial Boulder, one of the landslide sites. Affixed to the boulder is a bronze plaque with the names of the 28 people killed during the earthquake.

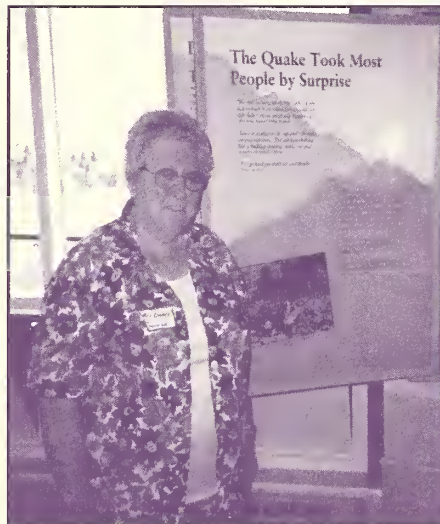
The West Yellowstone Interagency Smokejumpers re-enacted the rescue at Refuge Point. Nine jumpers parachuted to this point just as they did 40 years ago to aid the survivors of the earthquake. Both Al Hammond and Bob Nicol, 1959 smokejumpers, were present for this event.

At the Visitor Center, Mike Stickney, from Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology, spoke on historic earthquakes and recent seismicity in the area. The audience also saw a new video *The Madison River Canyon Then and Now* produced by Regional Office videographer Gene Colling.

The Hebgen Lake Earthquake registered 7.5 on the Richter scale. It triggered a massive landslide which blocked the Madison River and formed Quake Lake. As a result, 28 people lost their lives.

On display was an anniversary poster completed by Regional Office graphic artist Carol Evans.

The Visitor Center hosted a record crowd of some 1,300 people that day. Newspaper articles about the 40th anniversary appeared in the *Denver Post*, *Billings Gazette*, *Salt Lake Tribune* and the *Bozeman Chronicle*, demonstrating the widespread interest and importance of the Hebgen Lake Earthquake.



Irene Bennett Dunn, 1959 earthquake survivor, at the 40th anniversary ceremonies at Earthquake Lake Visitor Center.

Mann Gulch Memorial Ceremony



by Debbie Milburn, law enforcement
assistant and wreath maker
Helena National Forest

The wreaths used on August 4 to commemorate the loss of 13 firefighters' lives during the Mann Gulch fire 50 years ago were designed and constructed by employees of the Helena National Forest. Wreaths are a traditional symbol used in memorial ceremonies to acknowledge the circle of life, death and rebirth.

This set of wreaths was designed to thoughtfully convey personal meaning to this unique anniversary event. The chosen materials were, as much as possible, native or prevalent vegetation found in the Helena National Forest area.

The bases of the Mann Gulch wreaths are red-osier dogwood branches, entwined to represent the continuing circle of life. Juniper, with its subtle gray-blue berries, and purple lilac are symbolic of the eternal youthfulness of the 13 men. White carnations express sincere admiration for their dedication and supreme sacrifice. Silvery sage is said to mitigate grief, and statice pledges never-ceasing remembrance of these brave firefighters.

Arctic Grayling Ride to New Quarters

by horseback, boat, truck and backpack

*by Michael Enk, fisheries biologist
Lewis and Clark National Forest*



From an easy life in the Lewistown hatchery to the rigors of survival on the Rocky Mountain Front, about 10,000 stream-dwelling ("fluvial") arctic grayling travelled over 200 miles—by truck, horseback, boat and backpack—to release sites in the headwaters of the Sun River this summer.

The introduction of this native Montana fish to new waters on the Lewis and Clark National Forest last June and July is part of a statewide restoration plan to establish five self-sustaining stream populations. Part of the goal, too, is to head off another endangered species listing.

Although grayling once flourished in the main Sun River, they were denied access to the upper drainage by impassible falls in Diversion Gorge. Instead, the Sun's upper basin (North and South Forks) was populated mostly with non-native trout stocked by humans. Now, grayling will finally get a chance to stake their claim in these streams too.

Although genetically distinct lake-dwelling grayling are common in Montana, fluvial grayling had declined to just one population in the Big Hole River in southwest Montana before the restoration plan began in 1995. Offspring from the Big Hole River fish provided the grayling for the Sun River project.

Getting one-year-old fish to backcountry sites in the South and North Forks of the Sun required a major coordinated effort from Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) personnel. The grayling had to be trucked from the hatchery to trailheads at Benchmark, Mortimer Gulch, and Cave Mountain on the Rocky Mountain Ranger District. There they were placed in bags of water, pressurized with oxygen, packed

in coolers, then loaded onto boats or packstrings for an upstream or downstream journey to release sites along both forks of the Sun.

The longest packtrip was the 18-mile trek from Cave Mountain to Monroe Creek on the North Fork of the Sun in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The Rocky Mountain Ranger District provided two packstrings to lead the effort, but a packstring from the Flathead's Hungry Horse Ranger District and packstrings from FWP were critical to stocking the North Fork. A support crew including biologists, law enforcement officers, riders, fish packers, and camp cooks from both agencies was essential to the mission's success.

By mid-July, fishermen were already reporting easy catches of grayling in the North Fork on flies and other lures, although stream regulations require the fish be released. Plans call for repeated grayling stockings in the upper Sun River for three more years. After that, it will be up to the fish to make it on their own.



Grayling are packed into coolers for trip into the upper Sun River.

Photo by Tom Flowers, Montana FWP

Douglas-fir Bark Beetle Outbreak in Western Montana

by Gregg DeNitto, group leader, Missoula Field Office, Forest Health Protection, RO

Bark beetles are killing Douglas-fir trees in large numbers in western Montana. Aerial surveys completed in 1998 identified over 23,600 dead Douglas-fir on over 8,300 acres—a six-fold increase from 1997. It is one of the most extensive outbreaks in recent history.

The most noticeable areas of dead trees are on the Lolo, Kootenai, and Flathead National Forests and adjacent lands. Other areas are affected to lesser extents. Beetle populations in Douglas-fir forests east of the Continental Divide are generally lower.

Douglas-fir trees killed by Douglas-fir bark beetles have been "fading" from green to orange-red in many forested stands throughout western Montana. RO entomologist Ken Gibson said, "The dead trees are particularly noticeable along the Clark Fork River and interstate corridors, from about Rock Creek west to St. Regis, north and west to nearly Noxon."

Douglas-fir bark beetle populations have increased markedly in the last two years as a result of high amounts of wind-thrown and storm-damaged trees created during the winter of 1996-97. Populations shot up in both 1997 and 1998 because much of the downed material was left in the forest, creating attractive brood sites for beetles. They readily colonized downed trees in spring 1997, then attacked larger, older Douglas-fir in nearby stands in 1998.

Past Douglas-fir beetle outbreaks have lasted 2 to 4 years. Mortality is expected to decrease in 2001 or 2002 to "normal" levels, assuming conditions that might cause an increase in the beetles do not occur. Aerial and ground surveys continue to provide information about the trends and size of this outbreak.

Northern Idaho, western Montana, and eastern Washington are some of the highest risk areas from a number of agents. We are not likely to see an end to this and similar events very soon.

The Flight of the Songbirds

Banding program yields important population data

by Sandy Kratville,
wildlife biologist/water team, RO

Banding and monitoring songbirds is taking place via a special program called Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Program (MAPS). This program is one facet of long-term ecological monitoring that can be used as an effective resource management tool.

There are eight MAPS stations that are currently being operated on National Forest land within Region 1. These stations are located on the Bitterroot and Flathead National Forests.

At each station, 10 mist-nets and a work area are set up from dawn to noon on designated dates during the breeding season, which generally runs from June through early August. All stations are operated using the same methodology to maintain consistency in data collection and analysis. After captured birds are removed from the mist-nets, they are identified by species, sex, and age, then banded and released.

The Bitterroot National Forest operates two MAPS stations south of Hamilton. The two stations have been operated by forest wildlife biologists John Ormiston and Dave Lockman since 1993, with invaluable assistance from Bitterroot Audubon volunteers Clif Barry and Mel Mooers. During the last 7 years, they have banded over 1,675 birds (not counting recaptured birds), including 58 species.

Ormiston and Lockman encourage groups and individuals to visit these MAPS stations to observe banding operations and learn about bird conservation. They are often rewarded by seeing awe and delight in the eyes of kids who get to release processed birds.

Six MAPS stations were established in 1992 on the Flathead National Forest and have been in operation on an annual basis. The stations were initially operated

under contract but have recently been funded through a Cost-Share Program with the IBP. Forest biologists Tom Wittinger and Swan Lake wildlife biologist Jane Ingebreton are the local administrators of these stations, coordinating annual monitoring and housing. As a result of operating the Flathead MAPS stations during 1997, 43 bird species were encountered, 617 individuals were captured (for the first time) and an additional 340 birds were recaptured.

All information regarding birds that are banded and captured at MAPS stations is entered directly into the IBP database for storage and analysis. Although less than 10 years of data have been collected from these stations, important information on annual changes in bird populations has been obtained for some species and long-term trends in populations will be available in the near future. Survival estimates are currently being obtained with reasonable precision, and the precision of these estimates is improving each year.



Regional Forester, Dale Bosworth preparing to release a captured and banded MacGillivray's warbler.



Zone wildlife biologist, Dave Lockman and WWFRP Director Cindy Swanson at a MAPS station on the Bitterroot NF.

"MAPS"

The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Program (MAPS) is a cooperative effort to operate a continent-wide network of mist-netting and bird-banding stations. The MAPS program focuses on landbirds and is an important component of long-term ecological monitoring.

Participants include private groups and organizations, public agencies such as the Forest Service and individual bird banders. The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) began this program in 1989 with 16 stations in 12 states. In 10 years the program has dramatically expanded to 499 stations in 44 states.

The primary purpose of the MAPS program is to provide information about annual and long-term adult population size and "post-fledging" productivity (the number of young successful in leaving the nest). The program also provides estimates of adult survival rates, recruitment of young into the adult population and proportions of resident birds (as compared to migratory birds).

Broad-scale data on productivity and survivorship are not obtained from any other avian monitoring program in North America. This data provides crucial information upon which to initiate research and management actions that will reverse the recently documented declines in North American landbird populations.

For more information about IBP and/or MAPS contact: Dan Froehlich, MAPS coordinator, dfroehlich@birdpop.org; Phil Nott, landscape biologist, pnott@birdpop.org; Tom Wittinger (twittinger/r1.flathead); or John Ormiston (jormiston/r1.bitterroot).

Trail to the Past... and the Future

by Diana Enright, public information assistant
Kootenai National Forest

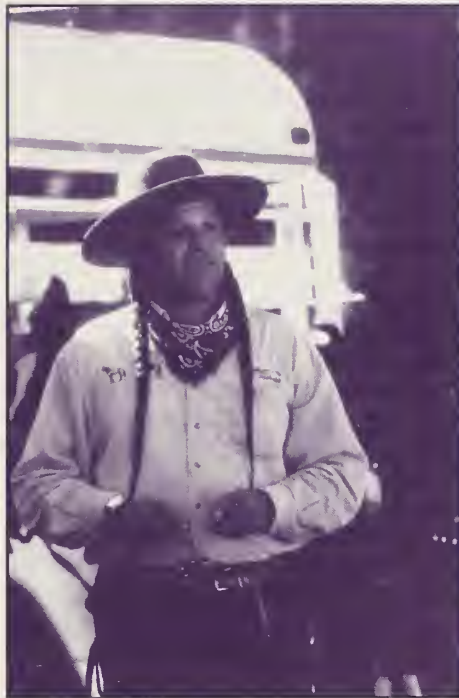
Take two weeks, a group of young people with a chance to learn about their heritage, a National Historic Trail, the Nez Perce Horse Registry, lots of coordination, and you have the successful Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark renovation project. For the last two weeks in July, the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest put to work a trail crew consisting of 10 kids each, one week from the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho and the other from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of Montana.

Project coordinator Cheryl Vanderburg of the Missoula Ranger District says they've always wanted to restore and rediscover the 13-mile segment known as the Lolo National Historic Trail, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Historic use of the trail includes travel by the Salish people into Idaho for salmon, and journeys by the Nez Perce into Montana for buffalo.

The 1877 flight of Chief Joseph from the U.S. Army also took the Nez Perce people over the trail. But until now, the trail had grown over, been covered by fallen trees, and disappeared back into the hillside that holds it.

"This project is about the Nez Perce people bringing back horses and for the young people from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to learn about their heritage," Vanderburg says. The project ensured exposure to the rich history of the Nez Perce and Salish people.

Vanderburg secured money from the Chief's Grants Program for projects that advance the Natural Resources Agenda, from the Northern Region Nez Perce National Historic Trail funds, from the Tribes and from the Lolo National Forest. That gave her \$80,000 to put toward the project.



Rudy Shebala shares his horsemanship expertise with trailriders. Shebala is well known for his horsemanship and is leading the effort in the development of the Nez Perce horses.

The kids were exposed to the trail their ancestors used, retracing the historic path on horseback. For each group of kids, one day of the five-day effort consisted of trail ride provided by Rudy Shebala, director of the Nez Perce Horse Registry and its Young Horseman Program.

The Nez Perce Trail work turned into an outdoor classroom experience for the kids, learning about the forest itself from Gene Thompson, Carl Anderson and Rick Simon of the Missoula Ranger District. Sawing trees out of the trails became a lesson in counting rings and determining tree ages. Thompson also passed along information on how to locate trails by watching for blazes cut into trees.

Vanderburg has already secured partial funding for next year and is currently working with both tribes to bring the students back again next summer. For Vanderburg, "this project was an opportunity for an on-the-ground history lesson. We learned what took place in the past and became a part of the future with the re-opening of the trail, and trail riding with the Nez Perce Tribe's horse program.

The Nez Perce Horse



The Nez Perce Tribe started the Young Horseman Program in 1994 as part of the Nez Perce horse breeding effort. Historically, the Nez Perce people bred Appaloosa horses, but the 1877 flight into Montana, and the resulting battles, meant the end of that effort. The Nez Perce word for horse is "sikum." Over 2,000 sikum were involved in the 1,100 mile flight, which led to the tribe's surrender in Montana's Bears Paw Mountains in October of 1877. While the horses may have been lost, the history was not, and is an integral part of the Young Horseman Program in Lapwai, Idaho.

While it is impossible to bring back the old strain of horses, Rudy Shebala, director of the Nez Perce Horse Registry did come up with something new. The breeding program crosses Appaloosa mares with Akhal-Teke stallions, a horse bred by Turkmen, of the southern region of Turkmenistan, north of Iran.

Akhal-Tekes were brought to this country in 1979 as a dressage and jumping horse, but they have been used in Asia for over 3,000 years. The Akhal-Teke, accustomed to the arid desert environment, has a reputation for stamina and courage and was originally used in battle by the Turkomen warriors. The Appaloosa is well-known for its endurance, temperament, and identifying spots.

The Akhal-Teke, with a shiny coat, is a rare find and most of the horses reside in Russia and Germany. The Nez Perce Tribe received a donation of four Akhal-Teke stallions and two mares by a breeder who was selling off his stock. Combining the two breeds produced the Nez Perce Horse, a strong, good-tempered horse. The tribe currently owns a herd of about 100 horses, a mix of Appaloosa and Akhal-Teke.

"About 65 percent of the foals have the Appaloosa coloring of their mothers. Some of them have the metallic sheen to their coats. Some of the 2-year-olds are about 15 hands high," comments Shebala. The Nez Perce horses are used for cultural ceremonies, volunteer work and trail riding programs.

"We implemented the youth program so the kids could get hands on experience, and we started the horse breeding program. The Nez Perce now have a horse registry and a data base of all the horses," Shebala says. The program teaches horsemanship skills, horse management practices, horse breeding and business opportunities.



Dale Bosworth

A Message from the Regional Forester

As we end another fiscal year, I want to thank all our employees for the work completed in 1999. The accomplishments are impressive: getting the Dakota Prairie Grassland unit up and running, negotiating the Gallatin II Land Exchange, coordinating the Forest Service review and response to Yellowstone Pipeline's proposal for a corridor across the Lolo National Forest, dealing with the Douglas fir bark beetle infestation, installing the IBM computer system, preparing for Y2K, converting to the new FFIS accounting system, completing the physical inventory and deferred maintenance, road and mine restoration, road decommissioning on the Clearwater

and Flathead National Forests, resolving EEO complaints, and the list goes on and on.

We have continued to move forward with our experiments in land stewardship contracting. During FY 99, with the addition of 9 test projects, the Region now has 11 ongoing projects where we are working with communities to maintain and restore ecosystems. Through this innovative program and countless others you've demonstrated the Region's commitment to the natural resource agenda.

A lot was asked of you and you delivered, many times under very stressful conditions. As we slide into FY 2000, we have other issues pending: Columbia River Basin, the roads policy,

formulating an OHV policy, the President's roadless area protection proposal, to name a few. Employees will have the challenge of not only understanding the specifics of these individual issues but how they relate to each other.

I realize there is frustration with the overload. I feel that same frustration. I have asked the Regional Leadership Team for their help in finding better ways of setting priorities. I can't come up with the answer by myself on how we can solve this dilemma.

What we're looking for is the ability to focus on the most important items yet retain some degree of flexibility to respond to those issues that arise unexpectedly.

CIP 99

You CAN Make a Difference

*by Jane Haker, regional CIP coordinator
Human Resources, RO*

Every Region One employee can make a difference...a difference in workplace environment, communication, and atmosphere. How? By becoming involved and committed.

The goal of our Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) is to improve communication and the work environment. One tool that we have used is the CIP survey. In August, at the height of field and fire season in Region One, employees were asked to complete the 1999 CIP survey.

Results from that survey were distributed October 1. All units are asked to schedule a date and location for a feedback/action planning session. Each employee is encouraged to participate - even if they didn't fill out a survey questionnaire. The important thing is to communicate and plan how to improve the conditions on your unit.

R-1's survey return rate was 45 percent. Although the information does not reflect a majority opinion, it will be useful in beginning the dialogue between managers and employees. Accountability and

commitment to improve the unit will be reflected in each unit's CIP action plan. The action plans will be submitted to the Region and the Washington Office by Thanksgiving. The Regional Leadership Team has taken CIP seriously by scheduling a meeting with representatives from the Office of Personnel Management in early October to review results and develop a regional action plan.

Take personal responsibility and become involved in the planning and implementation of your unit's action plan!

by Ann Acheson and MaryAlice Stoner
RO Fire, Aviation, and Air Staff Group

A total of 20 Montana teachers gathered at the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest's Vigilante Work Center in July to participate in a GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) training session. GLOBE is a hands-on international science and education program which assembles a worldwide network of teachers, students, and managers working together on the Internet to learn more about the environment.

By carefully measuring and reporting local air, water, soil, and vegetation data on the internet, students from thousands of schools around the world assist scientists who work with the GLOBE program. GLOBE scientists include researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), various universities across the country, and the Forest Service.

The workshop was organized by Sheridan, Montana, GLOBE teacher Jim Lane, who also is a temporary forestry technician for the Madison Ranger District in Ennis. Jim is recognized by the GLOBE program as a "star," because of his success in using the program to enhance his teaching. He trains other teachers so they may enjoy what the GLOBE program can offer the world of earth science education.

In addition to making the site available, the session was supported by the Forest Service in many ways. One day was spent touring the Ruby River Valley and the Gravelly Range with local Forest Service specialists. This area offered many opportunities for the teachers to relate the skills they learned in the session to a field setting.



Culinary arts students of the Anaconda Job Corps who prepared the delicious fare for the GLOBE training.



Field trip in the Gravelly Range during GLOBE training.

Specialists from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and the Regional Office offered their insights about the resources they manage and the natural resource challenges they face. Participating from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest were Mark Petroni, Mike Ryan, Jan Bowey, Kevin Suzuki, Ken Brown, and Bill Avey. Ann Acheson and MaryAlice Stoner from the Northern Region provided assistance. Georgia Cox, University of Montana's GLOBE coordinator, and Bill Peterson from Cascade, Montana, provided technical support. Local ranchers Max and Teri Moltich spent an evening sharing their experiences in the past and hopes for the future.

More information about the GLOBE program in Montana can be found at www.globealliance.com. To contact the franchise coordinator at the University of Mary in North Dakota, (which also serves South Dakota and Wyoming), send an e-mail to lgorzel@umary.edu. In Idaho, the GLOBE franchise can be found at <http://ivc.uidaho.edu/globe/> or <http://coehp.idbsu.edu/FACHTMLS/tsingletary/TJS.hp1.html>. Contact Ann Acheson (406-329-3493, aacheson/r1, aacheson/r1@fs.fed.us) for more information about how the Forest Service is involved with the GLOBE program.

GLOBE and Fire Ecology

The Northern Region is partnering with teachers and students in the GLOBE program to share information on the role and risks of fire in ecosystems. Bob Keane, with the Forest Service's Fire Research Lab in Missoula, has developed a GLOBE fire ecology curriculum to be implemented as a GLOBE school project in the Region.

Field measurements of fuel loads are coupled with lesson plans explaining the role of fire in ecosystems. This should enable students to understand how vegetation affects fire behavior, and how fire behavior affects all the resources and activities in a fire-dependent ecosystem.

Threading the Needle

Firefighters Rappel from Helicopters

by Kathy Moody, West Fork Ranger District, and Diana Enright, Supervisors Office, Kootenai National Forest

Calling it "threading the needle," a special corps of firefighters drop from the skies into tough terrain, right in between the trees. These firefighters are helicopter rappel crews who spend their summers sliding down a 200-foot rope. For two men from Mexico, such work meant accompanying the Cali-



fornia heli-rappel group sent to Montana this summer to fight the Devil Storm fire on the Bitterroot National Forest.

Gustavo Olivares and Eduardo Cruz are part of the USA and Mexico Fire Training and Exchange program, sponsored by the Forest Service and BLM. This past summer they became part of the 11-person heli-rappel crew from the Sequoia National Forest in Kernville, California. Olivares is a fire management officer in

Mexico, working for an agency similar to the BLM. Cruz runs a hand crew in Mexico for an agency comparable to the National Park Service. Twelve fire agency people from Mexico have already been trained in California under the exchange program, and they will, in turn, train 30 rappellers in their own country.

The exchange program began in 1994 as part of international forestry and continues today on the Sequoia National Forest. Helitack Supervisor Isidoro Solis says this effort also helps to address aviation weaknesses identified last year in an analysis of Mexico's fire suppression efforts. He also stated the Incident Command System (ICS) is being translated for implementation in Mexico and Brazil, allowing for more effective handling of earthquakes and other natural disasters.

First used by the military in the late 1950s, helicopter rappelling was adopted by the Forest Service in California in 1964. Now, it's a nationwide interagency program with rappel crews in many states. (No states in Region One, however, currently have such a program.)

Solis and his assistant Dave Nalle manage the Sequoia crew and are excited about the future of the Mexico exchange program, which runs every summer from May 24 through October 7. Weaving their way through the trees on ropes, this skilled group of firefighters fill a unique niche in the organization.

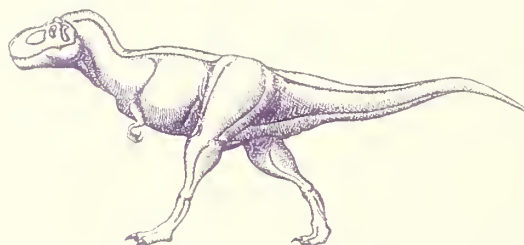
Prehistoric Life on Display

by Mary Haase, resource assistant
Grand River Ranger District, Dakota Prairie Grasslands

Visitors to the Grand River National Grasslands can now view fossils of prehistoric creatures that once roamed the area at a new exhibit at the Grand River Ranger District. Teeth from a Hadrosaur (duck bill), Tyrannosaurus rex, and a crocodile; vertebrae from a Champsosaurus and gar fish; partial carapace of a Aspideretes (soft-shelled turtle); and a three-foot long tibia of an Edmontosaurus are highlights of the display.

The exhibit was the result of efforts by John Hoganson and Johnathan Campbell, North Dakota Geological Survey of Bismarck; Roger Stephenson and Steve Sroka, Grand River Museum of Lemmon; paleontologist Barb Beasley, Region 2; geologist Carol Brown, Custer National Forest; and local volunteers Sid and Vonnie Lichtenfelt.

In recognition of their many contributions to the Grand River National



Grasslands paleontology program, Grand River District Ranger Jane Darnell recently presented an award to volunteers Vonnie and Sid Lichtenfelt.

But there's more to come! The district is preparing a large triceratops frill (neck collar) that was excavated in August. In addition, plans are to inventory and continue (where appropriate) with the preservation of other paleontological resources.



Savenac PIT Project - July 1999, group photo.

The Lure of Savenac

demand, it needed expanded facilities, which were provided courtesy of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Although the facility ceased nursery operations in 1969, all the historic buildings still stand, much to the credit of

employees and volunteers who feel an affection and responsibility to see the place maintained.

Important in the preservation of the compound has been the Passport in Time (PIT) program, managed by the Lolo National Forest. Over the years, the PIT projects at Savenac have been the most successful in the region. This year applications were received from all over the country. A total of 47 people were selected.

From July 19-23, those volunteers toiled in the hot sun, 8 hours a day. What could be the lure? "The weather in Montana is heaven," said one Texan. One local couple

was there "because this place has always been special to us and the community." Jay, a 16 year-old from Etowah, Georgia, joined the crew because his grandparents volunteered. "I was the only teenager until finally three other kids arrived!"

For Mel Hudson, the lure was obvious. He was one of the 200 CCC boys stationed at Savenac 60 years ago. "It was the best 9 months of my life," says Mel.

Much was accomplished during the 5 days of the project. One entire building was scrapped and painted, an outbuilding was reroofed, the stone entrance gates were repointed, trails were put in, and many trees were pruned.

The camaraderie and congenial atmosphere set by Lolo employees went a long way to make the work enjoyable and worthwhile. Jennifer Eberlien and Carole Johnson, coordinators for this year's project, put in many long hours to make sure everything went smoothly. And it did.

Savenac Nursery has a special place in the history of the Northern Region. Founded in 1907, the facility was in full operation by 1909, prophetically one year before the devastating 1910 fire. The fire burned millions of forested acres throughout the region, taking with it the fledgling nursery.

By 1915, the nursery was back, fully stocked with 2.5 million young trees, and became a major player in rejuvenating the devastated landscape.

By the mid-1930s, the nursery was shipping some 10 million seedlings throughout the country, the largest supplier of tree seedlings in the nation. To meet

Square Mountain Lookout Gets Help

*by Steve Armstrong, archaeologist,
Nez Perce National Forest*



Photo shows Pit crew at Square Mountain Lookout when log walls had been taken out and not yet been replaced.

Square Mountain Lookout, overlooking the glacier-carved mountain peaks and valleys of the Gospel Hump Wilderness, was the location of a recently completed Passport in Time (PIT) project. Restoration work began on the 68-year old lookout, with the goal of returning it, in time, to its 1931 appearance.

This past August, Nez Perce National Forest employees Steve Armstrong, archaeologist; Ian Barlow, wilderness ranger; Cindy Schacher, archaeological

technician, 15 PIT volunteers, and local log building restoration expert Bruce Dreher assembled to initiate desperately needed measures to save one of the forest's few remaining log lookouts.

Volunteers came from Georgia, Arizona, Wisconsin, Montana, Idaho, and Washington. These energetic people contributed 674 hours, the equivalent of just over 4 months time for one person!

The initial phase of the project involved replacing the badly deteriorated wall logs. Workers had to jack up the entire roof superstructure and remove the damaged logs. To stabilize the new log construction, they repaired the dry laid stone foundation, placing large flat stones (several hundred pounds each) under each corner.

Other work included reconstructing the shiplap siding shutters. After reviewing historic photos of the tower, the team built

new shutters based on the original design.

When we removed the flooring and window framing, we were treated to two surprises. Within the window framing, we found one page of an inspection report form from the early 1940s.

The next surprise came from the maple flooring. Paper labels presumably dating from the 1930s were still affixed to the underside of the boards. The labels identified the manufacturer as Connor Lumber and Land Co., of Laona, Wisconsin. Many of these labels were in surprisingly good shape after surviving the harsh weather atop the 8000' mountain for nearly 70 years.

Although more work is needed to complete the restoration, a good start was made. The enthusiastic and hard-working PIT volunteers greatly aided in our commitment to preserve and protect this forest's historic structures for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

A Boy Scout Jamboree to Remember

by Terry Knupp, Kings Hill District Ranger
Lewis & Clark National Forest

Over 3,500 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and support people in Montana held their last statewide jamboree of the 20th century. Forest Service staff helped to make this huge event, held June 11-13 near White Sulphur Springs, an event to remember.

Outdoor recreation planner Noelle Meier, Kings Hill Ranger District, Lewis and Clark National Forest, coordinated Forest Service participation. Smokejumpers Dennis Lehfeldt and Charlie Palmer, from Missoula's Aerial Fire Depot, provided a smokejumper suit for the scouts to try on while discussing what it's like to be a smokejumper.

The Flathead National Forest's Suzanne Cable and Fred Flint, along with Katlynn Griffin, Kings Hill Ranger District, helped

with the wilderness skill trail demonstration. Bethany Ihle, Helena National Forest, provided a minerals display and a gold panning opportunity. Gary Grocholski and Tom Alt, Custer National Forest volunteers, presented "Bear Aware," an educational display about backcountry ethics in bear country.

Scouts were also treated to a demonstration of primitive skills as Lewis and Clark might have practiced, presented by interpreters Billy Maxwell and Georges DesGeorges, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Kings Hill district employees Mike Wofford gave a noxious weed demonstration; Charlie Marks and Brittany Bakken arranged for Smokey's appearance; and Jim Homison, Melissa Squire and Steve Zachry offered a fire ecology



Kings Hill District Ranger Terry Knupp at left in raft at Smith River raft demo/presentation.

display along with a Model 52 fire engine demonstration.

Kings Hill District Ranger Terry Knupp and Noelle Meier provided a river rafting and no impact river camping display. Fellow Kings Hill district staff Bob Gardiner and Rose Pettit helped with logistical support; Connie Kujath handled set-up. Connie also volunteered for the weekend as a local EMT in the Scout's first aid tent.

It was a huge effort that resulted in reaching a lot of youngsters. A big thanks to all the Forest Service staff who helped make the weekend successful.



by Pat Worth, information receptionist
Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai NF

It was a terrific time for kids and adults alike at the "Kids' Fish Derby," hosted by the Cabinet Ranger District this past June in Trout Creek, Montana. Approximately 250 children between the ages of 5 and 16 registered—a LOT of children for this small community.

Much of the credit for the event goes to former district ranger Jim Mershon and local resident Ron Haviland, who did a fantastic job at coordination. In addition to the Cabinet district, other organizations that contributed to the event include: Clark Fork B.A.S.S. Anglers Club, Washington Water Power, and Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Left: Annual Kids Fish Derby at Triangle Pond.

Most of the kids participated in the casting, fish ID, picture, poster, and essay contests. Wonderful prizes were donated by numerous businesses such as Costco and Wal-Mart. After the trophies and awards were presented, each child at the derby was asked to come up and choose a prize. Not one youngster went home empty handed.

Chili, hot dogs, coffee, hot chocolate, donuts, and pop—all donated—were handed out throughout the day. Local businessman Dave Carroll and his crew prepared and served the food donated by them and other contributors. It's estimated over 500 people were served.

Families look forward to this event, now in its ninth year of operation. It has become a special time for this small community to come together and work with Forest Service staff to make this event successful.



Bringing Back the Elk...

*Land managers and community
come together to save Clearwater Basin Herd*

by Michelle Craig, Initiative Coordinator
Clearwater National Forest

Idaho's Clearwater Basin elk herd, once nationally known, has dwindled in half due to harsh winters, declining habitat conditions, and hunting pressure — alarming both agencies and public interests. The six million-acre Clearwater Basin is located in north-central Idaho, and includes land managed by several federal and state agencies, the Nez Perce Tribe, and private industry.

In response to the crisis, landowners and wildlife advocates met in the spring of 1998 to discuss solutions. They formed CEI, the Clearwater Elk Habitat Initiative, and created a steering group and technical team to study the problem. But land managers aren't the only ones interested.

A tremendous surge of interest has sprung up amongst hunters, recreationists,

and many individuals interested in elk, wildlife, and forest management. Hundreds of people have signed a charter pledging their support, and a self-formed citizens group meets monthly to study the problem and contribute ideas.

Experts working on the initiative agree it will take a combination of actions to restore the herd: improving habitat conditions, controlling hunting pressure, managing predators differently, managing access differently, and controlling the spread of noxious weeds.

It was the abundant high-quality shrubfields produced after large wildfires occurred (1910 to 1934) that allowed elk to flourish. Today, 60-80 years after the fires, habitat conditions are declining. The greatest impacts have resulted from effective fire suppression and natural changes in vegetation. Therefore, improving habitat conditions is a primary goal.

To that end, the role of fire on the land-

scape is being increased. A Wildland Fire Use Guide was developed for the North Fork subbasin where elk numbers have dropped most significantly. Using this decision-making guide, natural fire starts can be managed for resource benefits rather than immediately suppressed.

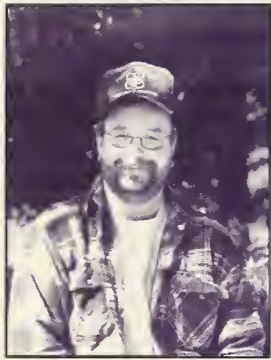
In addition, "prescribed" burning continues to take place where needed — nearly 15,000 acres this year in the Clearwater Basin.

It's been a complex project due to the number of landowners, landmanagers, and public land users involved. But the spirit of cooperation that has marked this venture from the beginning will go far to guarantee its success.

If you would like to receive the monthly update *Elk Tracks* or any additional information on CEI, call coordinator Michelle Craig at 208-983-1950.

A Learning Experience

Volunteer Comes from Germany



Thomas Jacob

by Cass Cairns,
information
assistant
Bitterroot
National Forest

The caller was Thomas Jacob, who mentioned he had some previous work experience in Scotland with their forestry program. His offer as a Bitterroot forest volunteer was accepted and 32-year old Thomas Jacob began working on the West Fork Ranger District June 1.

The trip to Montana was part of a life change for Jacob. At 29, he had an promising career in computers. Yet Jacob was unhappy, and when his wife told him "you're not the person you used to be," he knew it was time to do something different.

Jacob quit his job and enrolled in the Rottenburg Forestry College. He will complete his studies in August 2000 and will pursue a position as a forestry engineer in Germany's Black Forest, located near the French border by the River Rhine. If successful, he could end up managing 2,500-3,000 acres with the help of two to four assistants.

The Black Forest doesn't have developed recreation sites such as

campgrounds, trailheads, and trails. Management is limited primarily to timber resources. According to Jacob, "It is so different, as we (in Germany) have no opposition to timber cutting and forest fires are non-existent in the Black Forest."

Jacob attributes this lack of fire partly to the active timber cutting program for both commercial and personal use. "There is enough of a demand for firewood that not much is left on the ground to build up, thus minimizing the fire hazard," Jacob explained.

Jacob's volunteer duties were in recreation, silviculture, trail survey for reconstruction and maintenance, restoration of cultural resources in wilderness, and a little bit of fire at the beginning of the season.

Jacob, who completed his volunteer work July 30, found his experience very rewarding. "I found the employees on this forest to be very professional and knowledgeable," he remarked. "They were a great group of folks to work with."

This past spring, personnel assistant and volunteer coordinator Shirley Marsh of the Bitterroot National Forest received a phone call from an individual in Neuried, Germany, asking what were the chances of working as a volunteer for a couple of months in the summer. As a forestry student at the Rottenburg Forestry College in Rottenburg, Germany, the person was very interested in getting experience in all aspects of forestry here in the United States.

Premier Recyclers!

by Rima Nickel,

*Flathead County Green Thumb Program
Flathead National Forest*

The Flathead National Forest has become one of Flathead County's premier recyclers. For nearly a decade the forest has recycled a wide array of materials: office paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogs, styrofoam peanuts, batteries, aluminum, fluorescent light bulbs, copper and other scrap metals.

The program is coordinated by support services supervisor Royelynn Warren, with the assistance of duplications and supply officer Lowell Nelson. Royelynn has been creative in finding recipients for usable surplus and recyclables. Eye glasses go to the Lion's Club; shredded paper and styrofoam packing go to ceramics and casting shops and mail service businesses; furniture and bedding surplus from ranger stations and work centers have gone in the past to Lamp Lighter House and the Red Cross; and of-

fice supplies and furniture have gone to schools. (Note: Items donated were consistent with and followed Federal Property Management Regulations. Information on donation and disposal of property please refer to the Property Management Desk Guide issued by the Procurement & Property staff, R-1, or coordinate with your unit's property management officer.)

As the amount of recycling increases, cost-effectiveness for the Forest Service decreases because of the time and energy needed to collect and sort the items. To address the problem, Royelynn has involved school groups and Flathead Industries, who keep the money from the recycling they collect at the forest. She also acquired two student volunteers to spend time at the forest sorting recyclables.

"People are more willing to do things if they know the schools are involved," said Royelynn. For example, the pop-top tab recycling for Ronald McDonald House has become popular with forest employees, who

conscientiously save them and bring them from home to donate to school children. The children, in turn, donate the money they collect to the charity.

Lowell got Kila School students involved in the agency's paper recycling when his son attended there. For two years, his son's class made regular trips to pick up the paper under an agreement between the forest and the school.

A key to the program's success has been to make recycling as convenient as possible for staff: recycle boxes placed at each desk, copier, and printer, which are regularly emptied; and desk-size shredders provided to personnel and accounting departments that need confidentiality. Soda can recycle bins are placed around the building in addition to the lunch room.

Employee enthusiasm for recycling is contagious. Forest silviculturist Doug Berglund was inspired to start the agency's cardboard recycling effort three years ago after seeing businesses around town doing it. "As a government organization involved in conservation, I thought we ought to set a good example," Doug commented.

Mary Bell Lunsford Transfers to Mississippi

by Buck Feist, secretary
Custer National Forest

Mary Bell Lunsford, former public affairs officer for the Custer National Forest, accepted a promotion as public affairs specialist for the Franklin County Recreation Complex Project, Homochitto Ranger District, National Forests of Mississippi.

Mary started her Forest Service career in 1982 at a Job Corps Center in Bristol, Tennessee, working for the Cherokee National Forest. From there she went to the Blacksburg Ranger District, Jefferson National Forest, in Virginia, before transferring to a position with the Veteran's Administration.

In 1988, Mary moved to Montana and resumed her Forest Service career at the Custer National Forest as a purchasing agent. She later became secretary to the forest supervisor and then assistant to the forest public affairs officer (PAO). For the last three years, Mary had been acting PAO on the Custer, as well as working as a Type II incident information officer and as an assistant in the Regional Medical Unit for the fire organization.

Mary Bell moved on with the best wishes from her colleagues and friends in the Region.

New Planning Director

The new Regional Director of the Ecosystem Assessment and Planning staff is Rick Roberts, who started his new job October 4.

Rick was previously with the Washington Office, Environmental Management Coordination Staff where he provided leadership in policy development and guidance for land management planning and coordination with issues related to the Endangered Species Act. He was also involved in the development of draft planning regulations for the National Forest Management Act.

Prior to his WO position, Rick worked in Region 6 from 1994-97, as a resource policy planner in the RO's Strategic Planning Unit. From 1992-94, he worked for Regions 1, 4, and 6 as an Endangered Species Act Section 7 and litigation coordinator for issues involving endangered salmon in the Snake River Basin.

From 1988-92, Rick served as the planning, administrative appeals, and litigation coordinator for the R-6 Fish, Wildlife, and Botany Unit as well as for the Range Pro-

gram. From 1986-88, Rick was assigned to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife where he assisted in the review of draft forest planning documents.

From 1977-86, Rick administered the range, wildlife, recreation, and wilderness programs for the Wenatchee National Forest at the district level. In 1983, he became that forest's planning biologist. Before coming to the Forest Service, Rick worked for the Bureau of Land Management's Boise District Office as a range conservationist.

Rick has been a faculty member for continuing education classes for the Endangered Species Act and the National Forest Management Act with the Environmental Law Institute, Washington D.C. and Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon. He has a bachelor's degree in range management.

Rick and his wife Kathy have two sons: Mark who lives in San Diego, and Scott who lives in Burlington, Vermont.

Interpreter of the Year

David Turner of the Helena National Forest was selected as the Northern Region Interpreter of the Year for 1999, announced Regional Forester Dale Bosworth in September.

Over the past 25 years Dave, a forester on the Helena Ranger District, has studied and interpreted the tragic Mann Gulch Fire of August 5, 1949, in which 13 young men lost their lives. Dave is noted as the forest "historian" and expert on the fire, and has shared the Mann Gulch story with countless numbers of people through correspondence, the media, guided interpretive walks, school presentations, service clubs and other groups. His efforts were highlighted this past year during the 50th anniversary commemoration of the fire, a nationally significant event.

ration of the fire, a nationally significant event.

"Dave has played an important role in helping to heal the pain, grief and hard feelings that resulted from the fire," Bosworth commented. "He has brought honor to the victims of the fire and their families, honor to the survivors and honor to the Forest Service. His work is a credit to the Forest Service and deserves the recognition that comes with the 'Interpreter of the Year' award."

Dave will represent the Northern Region in national competition for the Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation Award, which is given to the outstanding national forest interpreter in the nation each year.



Helena NF interpreter Dave Turner.



Kathy Solberg enjoying the retirement party festivities.

Solberg Retires

Kathy Solberg, Region One director of Human Resources since June 1990, retired September 1. She had a total of 30 1/2 years of federal employment, 22 with the Forest Service.

A graduate of Mary Baldwin College in Virginia, Kathy's previous experience included: personnel specialist, Dept of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C., 1969-77; personnel officer, Lewis and Clark National Forest, 1977-80; personnel officer, Flathead National Forest, 1980-81; classification specialist,

WO, 1980-81; classification employment group leader, R-6 RO, 1984-88; administrative officer, Deschutes National Forest, R-6, 1988-90.

Kathy celebrated her retirement with a 3-week trip to Alaska with her husband Terry in late September and early October. In late October and November they'll be ready for hunting season. After Terry's planned retirement from his position with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in January 2000, they plan to snowmobile in Saskatchewan and travel in their 40-ft. motor home.

Customer Service Corner



Hats off to Deb McNary, with the Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, who was recently awarded for her contributions to the Cabinet Ranger District. Deb spent many Sundays this summer working around the district office building planting flowers. Then she came in and weeded and watered. Her handiwork produced a beautiful display of flowering shrubs and native plants all around the building. The district received many compliments from the public as well as employees.

The Cabinet Ranger District's information receptionist, Pat Worth, was also recognized a few weeks ago for her outstanding service to district visitors. Pat has worked on the district about 3-1/2 years. According to her supervisor, "Pat is friendly, outgoing and enjoys helping people. Her wonderful customer service attitude is a great asset to the district."

Regional Training Academy Set

MaryAlice Stoner, RO FAA, and Jane Haker, RO Human Resources

Planning is well underway for the Year 2000 R-1 Regional Training Academy (RTA). RTA Y2K will be March 20-24 on the University of Montana campus in Missoula. Most of the classes will be located in the Gallagher Business Building.

Last year's RTA was a big success, with over 900 employees from Regions 1 and 4 attending over 100 classes. RTA is an efficient way to deliver training in the Region, costing about \$22.00 per student, regardless of how many courses taken.

The current address of the RTA homepage is fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/training/rta. Units will be notified if the Web address changes as the training web page is updated for the new registration system. Once the courses are identified for RTA Y2K, employees can look on the Homepage to: look at the RTA catalog, register for classes, get a report of their classes, view a map of

the university, and pick up their parking permit—all from the comfort of their desk.

If anyone has ideas or suggestions that should be considered for RTA Y2K, please contact any of the following core team members:

MaryAlice Stoner, RO FAA, chairperson, (406) 329-3449, mstoner/r1.

Donna Sheehy, RO Engineering, (406) 329-3312, dsheehy/r1.

Steve Gradhandt, RO Financial Resources, (406) 329-3001, sgradhandt/r1.

Jane Haker, RO Human Resources, (406) 329-3194, jhaker/r1.

Tim Gray, RO IS, (406) 329-3143, tgray/r1.

RTA is only one of the venues for the Region's training program. Regional training courses will be held throughout the region, as well as on the Web. As the Region moves forward with modernization of our training program, Human Resources is establishing an interim electronic system to register all courses offered by the Northern Region. RTA courses will be included in the Regional training data base.

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

BUCKLER, WILLIAM, social services assistant, Anaconda JCC, promotion,
 CALLAHAN, TOM, social services assistant, Anaconda JCC, promotion
 GARRARD, BRENT, fleet equipment specialist, SO, quality step increase
 HARRIS, ROBERT, social services assistant, Anaconda JCC, promotion
 HAZELBAKER, NICHOLAS, forestry technician, West Fork RD, quality step increase
 HOGAN, ROBERT, spvr. social services assistant, Anaconda JCC, promotion
 MARIN, AMAURY, civil engineer technician, SO, quality step increase
 MILLER, CHARLES, land surveyor, SO, quality step increase
 ROSE, SUSAN, computer specialist, SO, promotion
 TAYLOR, CARY, supervisory forestry technician, Darby RD, quality step increase
 TESDAL, MARTIN, telecommunication technician, SO, quality step increase
 EDDY, WILLIAM, forestry technician, Darby RD, promotion

New Employees

BEASON, JOYCE, social services aid, Anaconda JCC
 KING, BRIAN, social services assistant, Trapper JCC
 MCDONALD, CONNIE, social services assistant, Trapper JCC
 PHILLIPS, ROBERT, social services aid, Anaconda JCC
 THEISSEN, JEFFREY, social services assistant, Trapper JCC

Reassignments

CLARK, JACKIE, business management assistant, Stevensville RD, personnel clerk, SO
 STEVENSON, SHAWNA, nurse practitioner, Anaconda JCC

Reinstatements

HEDDITCH, ROXIE, social services assistant, Trapper JCC

Resignations

BRADLEY, EVELYN, business management assistant, Stevensville RD

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

MINARD, PETE, supervisory civil engineer, White Mountain NF, promotion,
 Clearwater NF
 THOMPSON, KATHLEEN, public affairs assistant, promotion, Clearwater NF

Reassignments & Transfers

ROSS, LARRY, district ranger, Medicine Bow/ Routt NF, Parks RD, reassignment,
 Palouse RD

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

ARMINGER, CHARLES, forestry technician, Spotted Bear RD, promotion
 ARNOUX, KAAREN, editorial assistant, SO, temporary promotion
 CARR, DARRELL, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, temporary promotion
 DAHLGREN, GARY, district ranger, Tally Lake RD, temporary promotion
 DANIELSON, GEORGE, fleet assistant, SO, special act award
 ENSIGN, WILLIAM, supervisory forestry technician, Swan Lake RD, promotion
 PARADISE, CLIFFORD, contract specialist, SO, temporary promotion
 REES, DONALD, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, promotion
 ROWLEY, ALLEN, public affairs specialist, SO, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

HINZMAN, KENNETH, civil engineering technician, reassignment, SO
 MANLEY, DEBORA, district ranger, reassignment, Spotted Bear RD
 PUDELKA, JAMES, office automation assistant, reassignment, Hungry Horse RD
 SHARP, JAMES, computer assistant, reassignment, SO
 WEAVER, GAYANNE, personnel assistant, reassignment, SO

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS**Awards & Promotions**

LEWIS, AMBER, civil engineer trainee, SO
 WILKINS, DEBORAH, forester, Priest Lake RD, temporary promotion,
 Sandpoint RD, IPNF
 GROTH, ROBIN, account technician, SO, temporary promotion, SO
 HAMILTON, MARY ANN, forestry technician, Sandpoint RD, temporary promotion, Sandpoint RD
 WYNSMA, JAMIE, forestry technician, Bonners Ferry RD, temporary promotion,
 Bonners Ferry RD

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

BOND, TIMOTHY, rangeland specialist, Lewis & Clark NF, to district ranger,
 Cabinet RD, temporary promotion
 CARLSON, JOHN, fish biologist, SO, promotion
 HUTTA, PAUL, forestry technician, Rexford RD to Fortine RD, temporary promotion
 KERZMAN, NEAL, civil engineer technician, to supervisory civil engineer technician, East Zone Engineering, promotion

RUFFING, BRIAN, forestry technician, SO to Rexford RD, temporary promotion

New Employees

CASTILLO, DANIEL, student trainee timber, Cabinet RD
 HERNANDEZ, NIKIA, student trainee fire, Libby RD

Reassignments & Transfers

DICKERSON, JOAN, forester/planning, to forester/NEPA coordinator, SO, reassignment
 FLANARY, PAT, forester/silviculturist, to forester AFMO, Rexford RD, reassignment
 HAINES, KATHY, information receptionist to personnel clerk, SO, reassignment
 HARRINGTON, JIM, forestry technician, Fortine RD, to Beaverhead/Deerlodge NF, promotion
 JAMES, DAVID, procurement clerk, SO, to procurement technician, promotion, Army Corps of Engineers
 JOHNSON, CLYDE, forestry technician, Cabinet RD, R6 Umpqua NF, promotion
 PARKS, DEBORAH, personnel clerk, SO, to accounting technician, R4 Fishlakes NF
 SAUSER, JAMES, forester, SO to R2 Arapaho-Roos NF, reassignment
 SHUEY, THERESE, computer specialist, Rexford RD, to computer specialist, promotion, BLM Alaska

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

RAFF, QUINN, forestry tech fire crew leader, Moose Creek RD, converted to cc appointment, Moose Creek RD
 GRAVES, SUSAN, civil engineering tech trainee, cc appointment, Supervisor's Office
 OSBORN, ALAN, forestry tech fire operations foreman, Lolo NF, promotion, Clearwater RD
 FANTINI, JOHN, forestry tech recreation, Clearwater RD, promotion, Clearwater RD
 WINKLER, GREGG, forestry tech sale prep, Clearwater RD, promotion, Clearwater RD
 WERLINE, EVA, forestry tech silviculture, Salmon River RD, temporary promotion, Salmon River RD
 HARPER, DAVID, NEPA forester, Clearwater RD, extend promotion, Clearwater RD
 GILMORE, RUSSELL, biological science tech fish, quality step increase, Moose Creek RD

Reassignments & Transfers

COBURN, KARON, business management assistant, Elk City RD, reassignment, Clearwater RD
 OSBORN, LISA, forestry tech prevention, Lolo NF, reassignment, Clearwater RD

IN MEMORIAM

Harold Enger, 82, passed away September 6, in Missoula. He was born in Stanley, North Dakota, and moved to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, in 1934. He enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and in the late 1930s went to work as a fire lookout for the Bonners Ferry Ranger District. During World War II Harold served overseas with the Seabees. He returned to work for the Forest Service at Bonners Ferry until 1952 when he transferred to the Lolo National Forest. He was in timber management at the Lolo until his retirement in 1972.

Harold is survived by his wife Edith, Missoula; son Darl, Missoula; daughter Jeanine Brownell, Denver; and daughter Nita Rodgers (retired from the Lolo National Forest) Missoula.

Robert R. Goetting, 91, died of acute leukemia September 5. He was a long-time resident of Chicago where he worked until his retirement. He moved to Montana in 1975, and began working for the Missoula Ranger District on November 2, 1977, as an enrollee under the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) until his "second" retirement in 1997.

He is survived by his wife June, and daughters Pat Hankel and Diane Firkins, both of Missoula.



Ernest J. Grambo

Ernest J. Grambo, 88, died July 8, in Spokane. A native of Wibaux, Montana, Grambo joined the Forest Service in 1930. After intermittent service on the Kaniksu National Forest in Idaho, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in

1944. He served as a gunnery officer in the South Pacific until 1946. After the war, he was assigned to the Kootenai National Forest where he worked as project sales officer, Rexford district ranger, and, in 1951, as timber management assistant at the Supervisor's Office. In 1957 he was promoted to chief of sales and administration for the Northern Region's Timber Management division. In 1962 he was appointed director of Timber Management for the Rocky Mountain Region. He retired in the mid-60s.

Elmer Emil Luer, 94, died September 9. A native of Ridgeland, Wisconsin, he served 38 years with the Forest Service, retiring in 1970.

Elmer first worked for the Forester Service in 1933 as a junior range examiner in Missoula. Other positions include: Range Management, RO; Townsend Ranger District, Helena National Forest; district ranger, Townsend Ranger District,

1939-42; district forest ranger, Gardner Ranger District, Absaroka National Forest, 1942-45. Other assignments: range examiner, forester, range conservationist, and national forest staff officer. After 2 years in the Nez Perce National Forest, he served in the Gallatin National Forest Supervisors Office; Gallatin National Forest Supervisors Office, 1950-61. Luer was the Regional Forester's special assistant in Spokane since 1961. His position was with the Information and Education division.

Elmer is survived by his wife Sylvia, who continues to live in their home in Spokane. He is also survived by three daughters and a son: Patricia Luer, Santa Monica, California; Geraldine Luer, Port Orchard, Washington; Janice Halteman, Aurora, Maine; and Dennis Clute, Spokane.

Robert "Bob" Mills passed away September 11 at his home in Lolo, Montana. He was born in Lemmon, South Dakota, in 1934. He moved with his family to Montana in 1939. As a young man he worked for the Forest Service as a fire lookout. He later worked in the private sector. He retired from the Steve Jones Enterprises, Inc. of Lolo.

Bob is survived by his four children: David, Eureka, Montana; Donna Rae Franchuck, Lolo; Susan Montelius, Clinton, Montana; and Bobbi Jean Mayo, Columbia Falls, Montana.



Elmer Luer at Storm Lake Creek, Deerlodge NF, 1946.

C. Vance Wilson, Jr., 78, passed away on August 2, 1999, in Helena, Montana. He was in the armed forces in World War II and participated in the invasion of Germany. Upon returning from the war, he became a partner and later president in the Helena Hardware Wholesale and Retail Company. At that time he was very active in the city of Helena in both business and civic groups.

In 1969, he went to work for the Helena National Forest as the forest mixmaster. In that capacity, he helped build and run the Forest Service retardant plant located at the Helena airport. From 1975 until his retirement in 1985, he worked in timber, including tree planting, sale preparation and timber sale administration.

Vance is survived by his wife Helen, daughters Jane Howard, Dillon, Montana; and Anne Gail, Newberg, Oregon.

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And the answer is.....

The starkly beautiful stretch of landscape featured in the last NRN was identified immediately by the photographer, Bernie Alt. The place is the Little Missouri River on the Medora Ranger District, now part of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, in western North Dakota. The photo was taken in August, 1962. Bernie was district ranger at the time.

Bernie, whose wife Lucile just passed away August 2, resides in Kalispell. We later received another correct identification from Bernie's son Miles, who lives in Rhode Island.

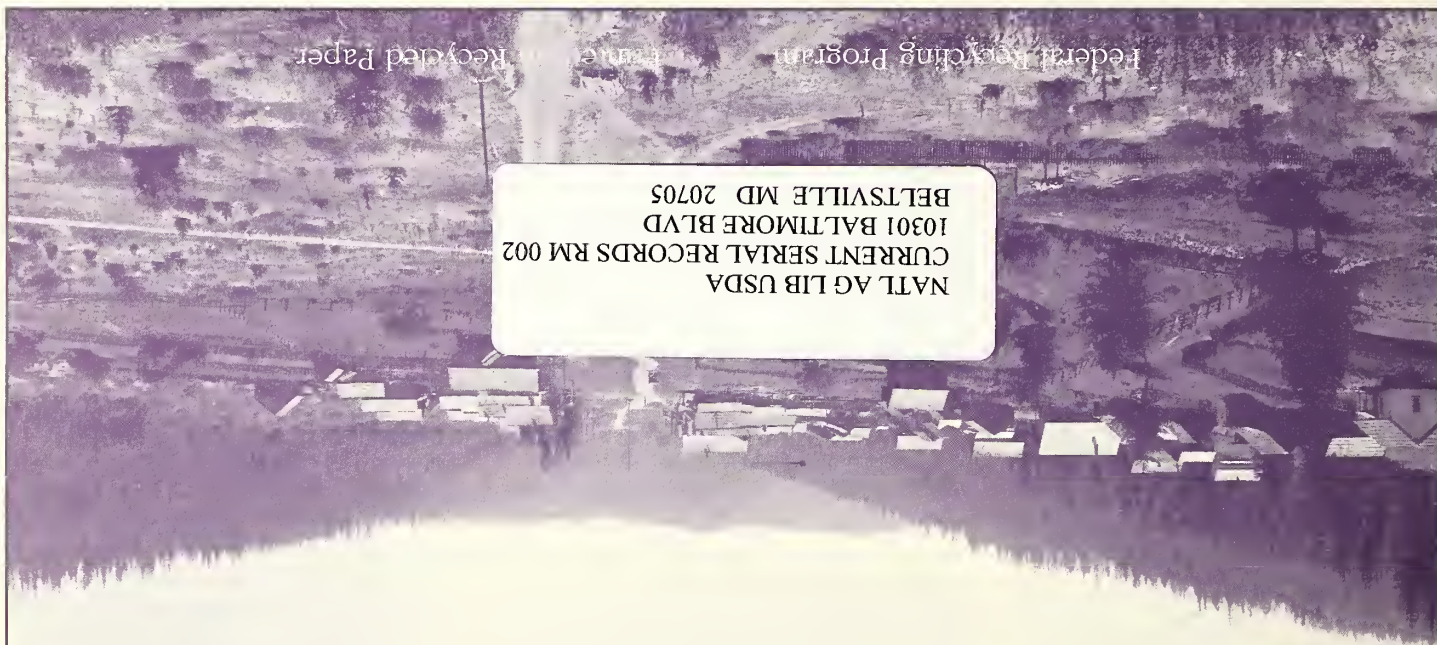
We were also glad to hear from Bernie's former assistant ranger Hank Greitl, who served on the Medora from 1962-65. Hank, who makes his home in Dillon, Montana, thought it was taken near Medora, "probably near where I-94 crosses the river." Only Hank and

Bernie would know this!

On the same day that we received Bernie's note, we got a call from Carolyn Hoem, a retiree who once worked for the McKenzie Ranger District, a neighbor of the Medora. "We flew that area in a helicopter," Carolyn commented. "It was in the late 1960's, and staff was doing their first survey of the area for the first land management plans." Carolyn moved on to serve at other locations in R-1, retiring in 1995 from the Dillon Supervisor's Office, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

INTO THE PAST

Do you know the name of this early Idaho metropolis?

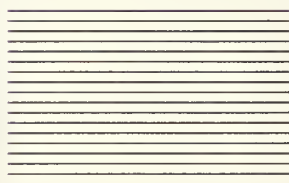


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